

Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Previously Presented) A method of lubricating the interface between a container and a moving conveyor surface, in the substantial absence of foamed lubricant and lubricant runoff, the method comprising:

(a) forming a continuous thin film of a liquid lubricant composition comprising an emulsion of an oil phase and an aqueous phase, the oil phase comprising silicone, on a container contact surface of a conveyor, wherein the emulsion contains about 5 to 50 wt.% of the aqueous phase, and wherein the continuous thin film of the lubricant is placed on the surface of the moving conveyor forming a lubricated area and an unlubricated margin on the conveyor, and wherein an edge of the conveyor comprises the unlubricated margin; and

(b) moving a container on the conveyor surface in order to transport the container from a first location to a second location.

2-3. (Cancelled).

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the lubricant comprises a suspension of a particulate.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the container comprises an aluminum can or a thermoplastic bottle.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the liquid lubricant is applied to the surface of the conveyor in an amount of about 2×10^{-4} to 0.05 grams of lubricant per each square inch of surface.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the thickness of the continuous thin film of lubricant comprises a minimum thickness of an amount sufficient to provide minimum lubricating properties up to about 5 millimeters.

8. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the thermoplastic bottle comprises a polyethylene terephthalate bottle having a pentaloid base and the area of contact of the lubricant with the bottle is limited to the tips of the pentaloid structure.
9. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the method is free of any substantial stress placed on the container for the purpose of changing the shape of the container.
10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the emulsion is a composition stable to phase separation.
11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the emulsion is unstable to phase separation after application of the lubricant to the conveyor surface.
12. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the coefficient of friction between the container and the conveyor surface is about 0.005 to 0.14.
13. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the coefficient of friction between the container and the conveyor surface is about 0.01 to 0.14.
14. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the coefficient of friction between the container and conveyor surface is about 0.03 to 0.14.
15. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the lubricant is applied to the conveyor surface using a brush applicator.
16. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the lubricant is applied to the conveyor surface using a spray applicator.
17. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the container is filled with carbonated beverage and the interior of the container is maintained under substantial pressure.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Original) The method of claim 18 wherein the width of the lubricated area on the conveyor is about 3 to 150 inches.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19 wherein the width of the unlubricated margin on the conveyor is greater than about 0.5 inches.

21-73. (Cancelled)

74. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the silicone comprises silicone surfactant.